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# Thirty years and counting

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Nord honored  
for three decades  
of service

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Duxbury Fire Chief Kevin Nord's career as a firefighter started early.

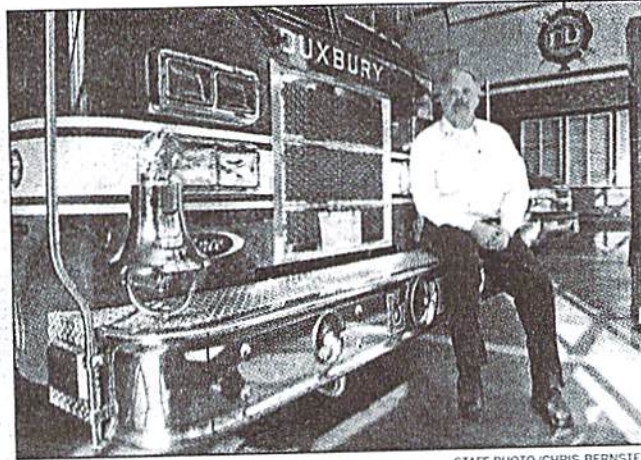
Growing up in Scituate, he said he was always interested "as a kid." That interest led him to a work-study program through Scituate High School with the Scituate Fire Department.

"Myself and some other students had an interest in the fire station," he said. "I asked the guidance counselor if I could get school credit by doing an internship at the fire station. Scituate had such a program. We chased fires and went a lot to the station."

While at the Scituate station, Nord said he fell under the tutelage of firefighter Robert Snow, who he credits with showing him the ropes.

"Early on he took an interest in us kids when we were doing the work-study program," he said.

Nord ultimately moved to Kingston and landed a spot on the call force right



STAFF PHOTO/CHRIS BERNSTEIN

Duxbury Fire Chief Kevin Nord, who has been a firefighter for 30 years.

out of high school.

"I did that for about a year, and then I was put on permanent career status in July 1978," he said.

After holding the rank of captain in Kingston for roughly 10 years, Nord said he had "reached a plateau" and was looking for a new challenge. In 2004, he

was a finalist for positions with the Chatham and Duxbury fire departments and decided on Duxbury.

"I like Duxbury. I had worked with the Duxbury firefighters at fires," he said. "I didn't have to relocate. I knew the area."

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# Nord honored for three decades of service

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Nord received a standing ovation and an outpouring of accolades during last week's board of selectmen meeting, as selectmen members and Democratic State Rep. Tom Calter of Kingston recognized his 30 years of service as a firefighter.

"We're honored to have you as our chief," said selectmen Chairman Jon Witten.

Calter read aloud from a citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

"Kingston's loss was Duxbury's gain," Calter said, noting his prior service in that town.

Calter also extended congratulations from Republican state Sen. Robert Hedlund of Weymouth, who could not make the meeting, and awarded Nord a citation from the Senate.

"I'm surprised and humbled by this," Nord said.

Nord speaks highly of his team in Duxbury, knowing the importance of a skilled crew in potential life-and-death situations.

"I have some very good people around me," he said. "I have two great deputy chiefs (Christopher West and William Carrico). Obviously, when you're faced

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Fire Chief Kevin Nord

with large-scale incidents, you need to step back and rely on the people around you. It becomes less daunting when you have good people working with you."

Outside of finding the time to continue his education — he's still working on his bachelor's degree — Nord said a big challenge is "meeting the needs of the community with what appears to be a shrinking budget."

"I need to continually get the guys sufficient training as well as the tools and equipment they need," he said.

Training and updating equipment are a constant now for firefighters and are imperative for them to be able to handle the multitude of services they provide to a community.

"Equipment and technology have significantly advanced," he said. "Even the clothing is better."

Nord also said a firefighter's mission has changed.

"In the 1970s and early '80s, we were just getting into (emergency medical) responsibilities," he said. "There was the progression from basic life support services to advanced life support services. In the '80s, there was the advancement of hazardous materials. The fires, though few and far between, are more dangerous because of the advent of plastics. They burn harder and faster. We need to know these hazards and stay up on them."

Nord also said the codes and regulations have changed a lot since his early years as a firefighter. The new standards include the carbon monoxide and underground storage tank laws.

"We're more emergency services than just fighting fires," he said. "After 9/11, we must deal with homeland security and all that responsibility. Fire services is always able and ready."

And Nord knows his responsibility doesn't stop at the fire sta-

tion door.

"Even if I'm home in bed at 3 a.m. and something happens, I'm responsible," he said.

However that's not an issue for Nord, whose grandfather was a call firefighter in Scituate and whose great-grandfather was a Scituate fire chief.

"I'd have to say probably one of the people who most influenced me was John Alberghini," he said. "He was the chief I grew up under in Kingston. A lot of the life lessons he taught me didn't appear to make a lot of sense at the time, but here as a chief myself now, they make a lot of sense."

The father of four, Nord said he enjoys spending time with his family.

"And continuing with my education," he said. "And occasionally getting out on the motorcycle."

As for the past 30 years, he said it has "kinda flown by."

"I kind of sensed something was going on that day when they said I needed to wear a tie," he said of being honored by the selectmen. "I'm very appreciative of the office staff to put this together."